UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/730
14 December 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 90

STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Walter BALZAN (Malta)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 43rd, 46th and 50th meetings, on 19 and 25 November and 11 December 1992. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/47/SR.43, 46 and 50). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 9th meetings, from 5 to 8 October (see A/C.2/47/SR.3-9).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster (A/47/322-E/1992/102 and Add.1 and 2);

(b) Letter dated 11 August 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting

the final documents of the Munich Economic Summit, held from 6 to 8 July 1992 (A/47/375-S/24429);

(c) Letter dated 23 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting an appeal by Aleksy II, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, to the participants in the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly (A/C.2/47/8).

4. At the 43rd meeting, on 19 November, the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation for Chernobyl made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/47/SR.43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/47/L.55 AND L.67

5. At the 46th meeting, on 25 November, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster" (A/C.2/47/L.55), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 45/190 of 21 December 1990 and 46/150 of 18 December 1991,

"Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, 1991/51 of 26 July 1991 and 1992/38 of 30 July 1992,

"Taking note of the decisions adopted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150,

"Taking note with appreciation of the contribution made by Member States and by organizations of the United Nations system in the development of cooperation to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and encouraging further contributions,

"Bearing in mind the appeal of the Heads of State of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to the United Nations concerning provision of assistance in mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, of 20 March 1992, 1/ in particular to the international community to give renewed impetus to the international programme to mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station,

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1/ A/47/132, annex.

"Expressing profound concern about the ongoing effects on the lives and health of people, especially children, in the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and also in other countries affected by the Chernobyl disaster,

"Taking note with concern of the recent reliable findings of the World Health Organization relating to the health effects of the Chernobyl radioactive fallout,

"Stressing the responsibility of each State, particularly through its safety authorities and its plant operators, for the safety of its nuclear power plants, encouraging cooperation to this end throughout the world, in particular in Central and Eastern Europe, and emphasizing the high priority that should be given by the countries concerned to eliminating the above-mentioned dangers through improvements in safety and other appropriate measures with the support of the international community,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/150, 2/ and endorses the proposals contained therein on priority areas of international cooperation in studying, mitigating and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the activities related to the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150, taking into consideration the subsequent social, economic and other changes that have occurred in the countries most affected by the Chernobyl disaster;

"3. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and the ones mentioned above and to include an analytical review of programmes of the United Nations system and their implementation in the most affected countries;

"4. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993 for consideration during its coordination segment a progress report on the implementation of the request contained in paragraph 3 of the present resolution."

6. At the 50th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. José Lino Guerrero (Philippines), introduced a draft resolution

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2/ A/47/322-E/1992/102 and Add.1 and 2.

(A/C.2/47/L.67), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.55.

7. The Committee had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/47/L.72).

8. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of the States members of the European Community that are Members of the United Nations, made a statement (see A/C.2/47/SR.50).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67 without a vote (see para. 11).

10. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67, draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.55 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/190 of 21 December 1990 and 46/150 of 18 December 1991,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, 1991/51 of 26 July 1991 and 1992/38 of 30 July 1992,

Taking note of the decisions adopted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150,

Taking note with appreciation of the contribution made by Member States and by organizations of the United Nations system in the development of cooperation to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and encouraging further contributions,

Bearing in mind the appeal of the Heads of State of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to the United Nations concerning provision of

assistance in mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, of 20 March 1992, 3/

Expressing profound concern about the ongoing effects on the lives and health of people, especially children, in the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and also in other countries affected by the Chernobyl disaster,

Taking note with concern of the recent authoritative findings of the World Health Organization relating to the health effects of the Chernobyl radioactive fallout,

Aware of the need to strengthen further the coordination of active efforts, through international and, in particular, national measures, to mitigate and minimize the radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, as well as its possible long-term effects, including those resulting from transboundary contamination,

Stressing the responsibility of each State, particularly through its safety authorities and its plant operators, for the safety of its nuclear power plants, encouraging cooperation to this end throughout the world, in particular in Central and Eastern Europe, and emphasizing the high priority that should be given by the countries concerned to eliminating the above-mentioned dangers through improvements in safety and other appropriate measures, with the support of the international community,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/150, 4/ and the recommendations contained therein on priority areas of international cooperation in studying, mitigating and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the activities related to the follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150, taking into consideration the subsequent social, economic and other changes that have occurred in the countries most affected by the Chernobyl disaster;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General, in the light of his recommendations on priority areas, to undertake an analytical review of all United Nations activities to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in those countries most affected, including related Secretariat arrangements, taking full account of ongoing programmes and other relevant activities, including those of regional and other organizations, and the principle of comparative advantage;

3/ A/47/132, annex.

4/ A/47/322-E/1992/102 and Add.1 and 2.

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the conclusions of the analytical review requested in paragraph 3 above, and to submit an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993;

5. Decides to consider at its forty-eighth session the question of the biennialization of this agenda item.